

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, line 6, to line 12, as follows:

It has been found that a chamber diameter of more than 0.75 mm and less than 4 mm, or a chamber diameter average of at most 3 mm, renders the collagen sponge particularly useful for being coated with a fibrin glue preparation. Preferably, the collagen gel has a dry mass in the range of 2-20 mg dry mass per 1 g gel, such as 4-18 mg, such as 5-13 mg, such as 6-11 mg per 1 g gel. The dynamic viscosity of the collagen gel is preferably 2-20 Ncm, such as 4-10 Ncm, such as 6-8 Ncm. The collagen sponge preferably has a water content of not more than 20%, such as 10-15%, such as about 18%. The elasticity module of the collagen sponge is preferably in the range of 5-100 N/cm² ~~N/cm~~, such as 10-50 N/cm² ~~N/cm~~, and the density of the sponge is preferably 1-10 mg/cm³, such as 2-7 mg/cm³.

Please amend the paragraph on page 7, line 11, to line 22, as follows:

The collagen sponge produced by the method according to the invention preferably fulfils at least one of the following criteria:

- pH-value between 5.0 and 6.0,
- lactic acid content at the most 5%,
- ammonium content at the most 0.5%,
- soluble protein content, calculated as albumin content, at the most 0.5%,
- sulphate ashes content at the most 1.0%,
- heavy metal content at the most 20 ppm,
- microbiological purity, at the most 10³ CFU/g,
- collagen content of 75% to 100%,
- density of 1-10 mg/cm³, such as 2-7 mg/cm³,
- elasticity module of 5-100 N/cm² ~~N/cm~~, such as 10-50 N/cm² ~~N/cm~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 7, line 30, to line 41, as follows:

In a second aspect, the present invention relates to a method of preparing a collagen sponge, comprising the steps of:

- preparing a collagen gel,
- mixing air into the collagen gel, so as to obtain a collagen foam,
- drying the collagen foam, so as to obtain a dry block of collagen sponge having chambers therein,
- isolating, from the block of collagen sponge, parts of sponge having the following properties:
 - elasticity module in the range of 5 to 100 N/cm² ~~N/cm~~,
 - density in the range of 1 to 10 mg/cm³,
 - chamber diameter of more than 0.75 mm and less than 4 mm, or a chamber diameter average of at most 3 mm.

Please amend Table II on page 13, as follows:

	Sponge I	Sponge II	Sponge III
pH value (spec: 4-6)	5.4	5.1	5.4
Lactic acid content	2.6%	2.8%	2%
Ammonium content	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Soluble protein content	0.1%	0.05%	0.08%
Sulphate ashes content	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Microbiological purity (CFU/g)	14-1000	<18-124	<11-33
Collagen content related to dry mass	95%	95%	98%
Water content	14%	15%	16%
Elasticity module	10-45 <u>N/cm²</u> N/cm	15-50 <u>N/cm²</u> N/cm	12.3-41.0 <u>N/cm²</u> N/cm
Chamber size (diameter; mean value)	2.3mm	2.1mm	2.9mm
Density	2.5-6.1mg/cm ³	2.9-5.9mg/cm ³	2.4-5.0mg/cm ³

	Sponge IV	Sponge V	
pH value	5.3	5.7	
Lactic acid content	2.3%	1.1%	
Ammonium content	0.1%	0.1%	
Soluble protein content	0.04%	0.11%	
Sulphate ashes content	0.3%	0.2%	
Heavy metal content	<20ppm	<20ppm	
Microbiological purity	<12-345CFU/g	<15-48 CFU/g	
Collagen content related to dry mass	95%	96%	
Water content	14%	12%	
Elasticity module	10.4-42.1N/cm N/cm ²	20-47N/cm N/cm ²	
Chamber size (diameter; mean value)	2.9mm	2.5 mm	
Density	2.9-5.3mg/cm ³	2-6.8mg/cm ³	

Table II